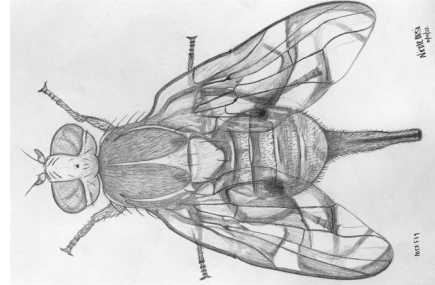


San Diego County Entomology Newsletter



SPRING 2023

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Mexican Fruit Fly by N. Orsi

Invasive Pest Alert — Coniferous Fiorinia Scale

The first San Diego County environmental record of *Fiorinia japonica* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae—B rated) was recorded on March 2nd. A large infestation of this armored scale was previously detected in a residential area of Los Angeles, and it has been eradicated several times from nurseries throughout the state. We incidentally collected the scale from an established *Podocarpus* sp. conifer plant on the sidewalk when we were surveying a residential street, chosen at random, looking for other scale insects in a separate delimitation effort. Part of the plant was heavily infested enough that we noticed it when walking past, with yellowing of leaves and sooty mold. A second infestation was then incidentally detected at another location in the county, again due to the noticeable heavy damage calling our attention when surveying for other invasive pests. More information on the history and impact of this scale is available in CDFA's Pest Rating Proposal: <https://blogs.cdфа.ca.gov/Section3162/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Fiorinia-japonica.pdf>



Coniferous Fiorinia Scale infests the upper and lower sides of conifer leaves (left). Feeding causes yellowing damage to the leaves and sooty mold growth (right). It has been detected at two locations in the county. Photos: B. Cass

Apiary Program

On March 25th, the Detection, Diagnostics and Quarantine Division hosted an interactive booth at the 3rd Annual Valley Center Bee & Butterfly Sustainability Festival at the Valley Center Branch Library. Sr. Agricultural Standards Inspector Nicole Goss and Agricultural Scientist Dr. Bodil Cass spoke with more than 200 guests about regulatory programs, especially Citrus Quarantine work with citrus greening disease, and best management practices for honey bee removal and beekeeping. The booth included a live insect petting zoo, apiary display box, functional microscope displays, pinned specimens, boards and flyers. The build-a-bug crafts and bug-themed stamps were enjoyed by all ages.



Family fun at the Valley Center Bee and Butterfly Sustainability Festival. Photos: B. Cass

Lab Updates & Outreach

The reference book collection has been thoroughly updated into a functional library, thanks to the hard work of Nicole Orsi and Danielle Gomez-Heller. Each book is now properly inventoried in a searchable electronic database, ticketed, and organized into shelves sorted by category. The information in these books is essential to plant pest diagnostics, especially for arthropod systematic keys for insect identification, and for providing peer-reviewed, science-based information about plant pests.

Other recent outreach events included the Earth Fair booth at the County Operations Center, guest lecture/lab for an Integrated Pest Management course at Cuyamaca College, and presentations at the San Diego Beekeeping Society monthly meetings.



Shelves of the Plant Pest Diagnostics Lab book library Photo: B. Cass

Favorite Samples & Acknowledgements

On April 26th, we celebrated Administrative Professionals Day, thanking the Clerical team in the Detection, Diagnostics and Quarantine Division for all of their hard work. This including many regular responsibilities that help keep the Lab and Apiary Program running, including but not limited to processing apiary registrations, salvaging equipment, organizing meetings and ordering supplies. Thank you, Catrin, Rosa and Greg!

Left: Salt marsh moth (*Estigmene acrea*) collected by Annamarie McKellips. Right: Mealybug destroyer larva (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae: Scymninae) intercepted by Dog Team 1 – Yeti, Jeremy Partch, Loren Libolt – on a cut flower shipment from Hawaii that was heavily infested with mealybugs.

Photos: B. Cass



Contact the Lab or Apiary Program

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